

to the heroes and heroines who make up Missouri Task Force One. They are shining examples of the best Missouri has to offer and an inspiration to the world.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Madam President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of this year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred November 30, 1993 in Tyler, TX. Nicholas West, a 23-year-old gay man, was abducted from a park known as a meeting place for gays, robbed and shot to death. Donald Aldrich, 29, David Ray McMillan, 17, and Henry Dunn Jr., 19, were charged with murder.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation, we can change hearts and minds as well.

IN MEMORY OF TWO BRAVE CALIFORNIA PILOTS, LARRY GROFF AND LARS STRATTE

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the tragic deaths of Larry Groff and Lars Stratte, pilots who were killed on August, 27, 2001 in a mid-air tanker collision while fighting the Bus Fire in Northern California. Both pilots were flying Gruman S-2 aircraft and were making fire retardant drops on the fire when they collided.

Larry Groff and Lars Stratte were established and dedicated pilots who have recorded numerous hours of flying time. Both pilots were employees of San Joaquin Helicopters, Incorporated. Larry Groff was a 20 year Navy Veteran pilot and Lars Stratte was Past President of the Redding Area Pilots Association.

We will never forget the service of these pilots to their community. In a difficult and dangerous occupation, they demonstrated outstanding courage and extraordinary ability to fight fires from the air in their service with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection.

Larry Groff, from Windsor, CA, leaves behind his wife Christine, his six children and two grandchildren. Lars Stratte, from Redding, CA, leaves behind his wife Terri and two children.

Larry Groff and Lars Stratte served their community and the people of California with great distinction. I am honored to pay tribute to these brave men today and I encourage my fellow colleagues to join me in celebrating

their lives and service, mourning their passing and extending our condolences to their families.

IN RECOGNITION OF DAVID BOHLEY

Mr. BOND. Madam President, I ask the Senate to pause long enough to recognize an outstanding member of my staff who is moving on to new challenges and new opportunities. Dave Bohley has been a member of my Small Business Committee staff since 1998. Since that time he has set a high standard of excellence and knowledge in handling banking and related matters for the Committee. He was also deeply involved in the Small Business Innovation Research program reauthorization we passed last year, and in the Small Business Technology Transfer program legislation currently working its way through the Congress.

Dave's expertise recently attracted him into a new career at Fannie Mae, the financial services company. Although I am happy for him to have this new opportunity, I am sorry to see him leave my staff. Fannie Mae's gain is truly our loss. I wish him every success and thank him so very much for his exemplary service to me and to the Senate.

NATURALIZATION EXTENSION ACT OF 2001

Mr. KOHL. Madam President, I rise today as an original cosponsor of the Bruce Vento Hmong Veterans Naturalization Extension Act of 2001. This important piece of legislation will ensure that the sizable Hmong population in Wisconsin is able to take advantage of a status adjustment opportunity extended to them unanimously by this Congress last year. The Hmong, and particularly the Lao Veterans of America, deserve our respect and honor for all their help during the conflict in Vietnam.

The Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act of 2000 waives the English language requirement and provides for a translator during administration of the Civics test for all Hmong Veterans of the Special Forces in Laos and their spouses and widows applying for U.S. citizenship. However, the Hmong veteran community only had the benefit of this legislation for 18 months. Since enactment, fewer than half of all Hmong veterans and their family members have been able to seek citizenship under these standards. The legislation introduced today would give those eligible an additional 18 months to apply for citizenship under the Naturalization Act.

I commend my colleague Senator WELLSTONE for his efforts on behalf of the Hmong population living in the upper midwestern United States, and I urge expeditious consideration of this legislation.

CONDEMNING BIGOTRY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ARAB, MUSLIM AND SOUTH ASIAN AMERICANS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Madam President, I rise to join with my colleagues in support of H. Con. Res 227 condemning bigotry and violence against Arab, Muslim, and South Asian Americans.

I am sincerely grateful for and proud of the tremendous response of the American people who have shown true courage and loyalty in the face of the horrific attacks on our country on September 11, 2001. No one should doubt the resolve of this Nation to meet the challenge before us in fighting terrorism. But as we continue to wrestle with deep and conflicting emotions of sadness, pain, anger, and fear, we must ensure that the spirit of America, that ability to transcend differences in race, religion, and ethnicity to achieve greatness, is not only preserved, but strengthened as a result of this tragedy.

As history has shown, America has always triumphed when we are united. That is why it is so important in this chapter in our history, as we prepare to defend and preserve our Nation, that we stay united as one Nation. This should not be an occasion for irrational impulses of fear, hate or violence towards Arab-Americans, Muslim Americans, South Asian Americans, or any other person in this country. Such actions are wrong. The idea of "America" knows no racial, ethnic, or religious boundaries, and no American should have to live in fear as a result of this situation. I stand together with my colleagues, and with Americans of all backgrounds, in condemning such actions. We must renew our commitment to protect our fellow Americans and our Nation against those who want to divide us with hate.

Unfortunately, there has been a rash of acts of hate during the last week, compounding the anxiety of Americans in communities throughout this Nation. I have been saddened to hear of incidents in my own State. Ashraf "Mike" Khaled, a Wisconsin resident of Jordanian descent and gas station owner, has been the victim of several incidents of hateful statements and threats of his safety by customers and passerby. He reminded us of why our country is so great and why these actions of hatred can be so damaging. He said, "I love this country because I found my freedom here."

This is a critical moment for America. One in which we must all live by and honor our Pledge to live as "One Nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO BISHOP TIMLIN

• Mr. SPECTER. Madam President, I seek recognition today to acknowledge the service of my friend, Bishop James C. Timlin, D.D., of the Diocese of